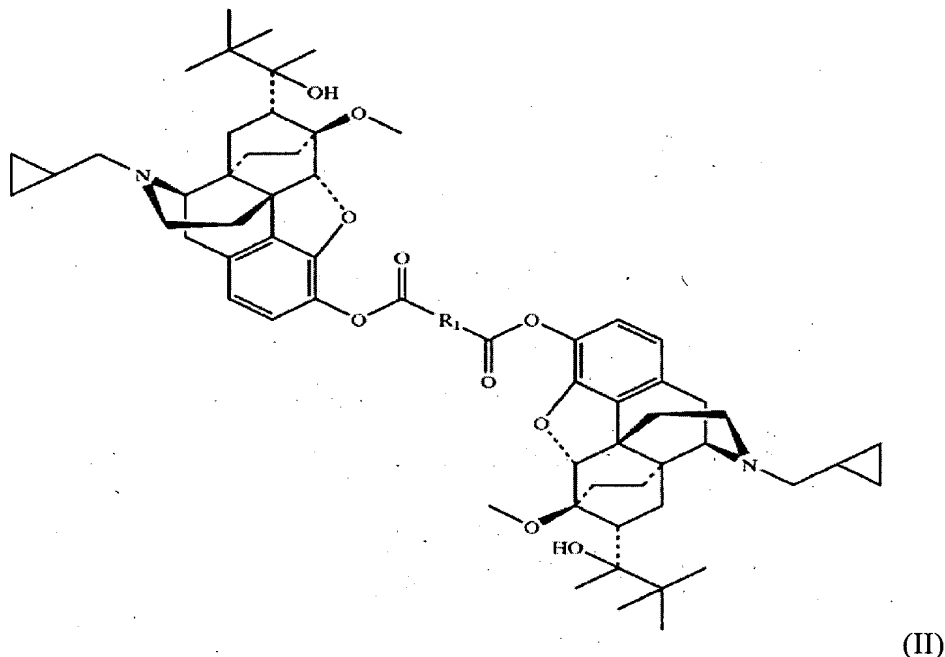


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

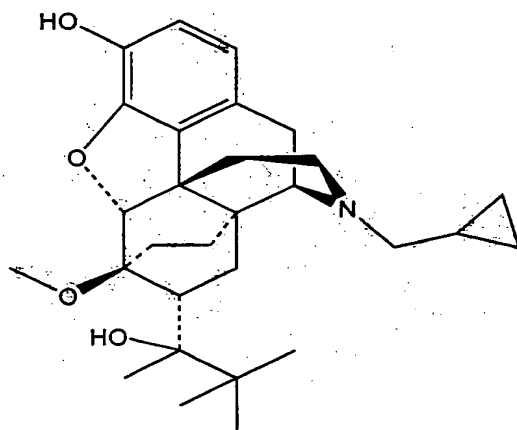
1. (Currently Amended) A dibuprenorphine dicarboxylic ester derivative of formula (II):



wherein R_1 is a divalent moiety of a saturated or unsaturated, straight-chain or branched, C_1 to C_{40} aliphatic group optionally substituted with a phenyl group.

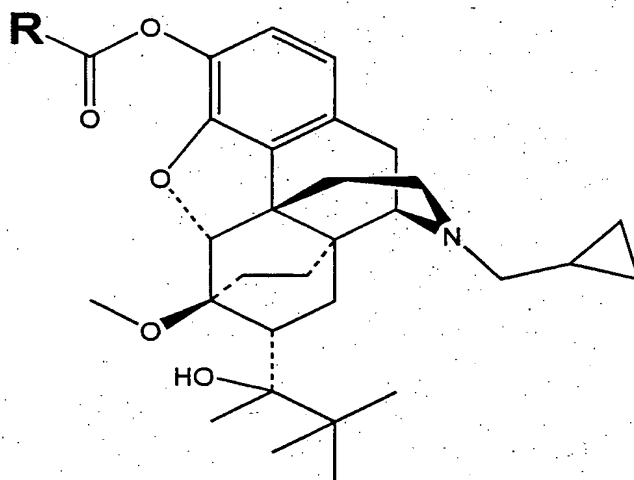
2. (Currently Amended) The dibuprenorphine dicarboxylic ester derivative as claimed in claim 1, wherein R_1 is an alkylene group having 1 to 40 20 carbon atoms.
3. (Currently Amended) The dibuprenorphine dicarboxylic ester derivative as claimed in claim 2, wherein R_1 is an alkylene group having ± 3 to 20 carbon atoms.
4. (Original) The dibuprenorphine dicarboxylic ester derivative as claimed in claim 1, which is selected from dibuprenorphine pimelate and dibuprenorphine sebacoyl ester.

5. (Currently Amended) An analgesic pharmaceutical composition for intramuscular or subcutaneous administration, comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound selected from the group consisting of buprenorphine base of formula (A)



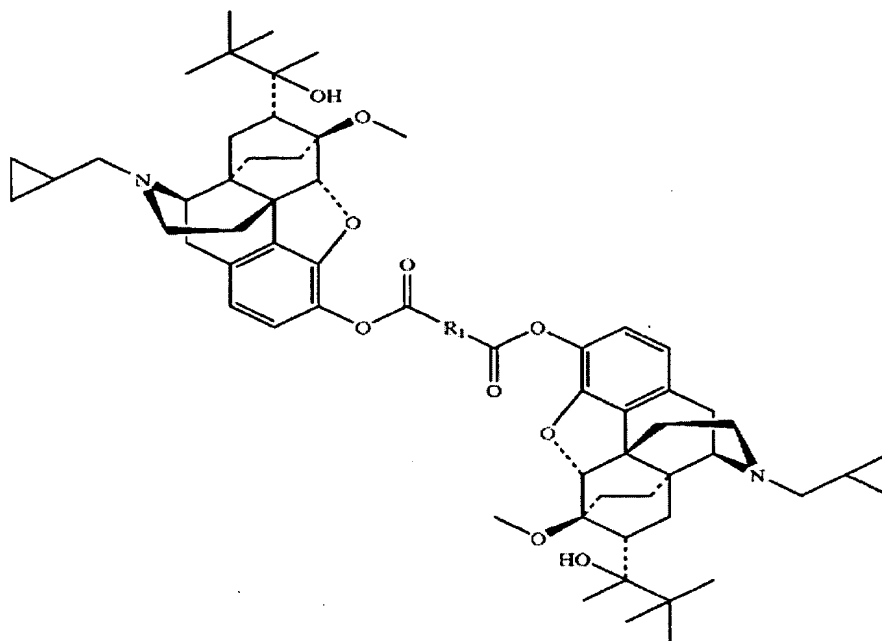
(A);

a buprenorphine monocarboxylic ester derivative of formula (I)



(I),

wherein R is selected from the group consisting of a straight-chain or branched saturated or unsaturated C_2 to C_{40} aliphatic group optionally substituted with an aryl or a phenyl group, and an aryl or a phenyl group optionally substituted with a straight-chain or branched saturated or unsaturated aliphatic group, with the proviso that R is not selected from methyl, ethyl, propyl, n-butyl, n-pentyl, n-hexyl and isopropyl; and a buprenorphine dicarboxylic ester derivative of formula (II)



(II),

wherein R₁ is a divalent moiety of a saturated or unsaturated, straight-chain or branched, C₁ to C₄₀ aliphatic group optionally substituted with a phenyl group; and
a pharmaceutically acceptable oil carrier.

6. (Original) The analgesic pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 5, wherein said compound is said buprenorphine dicarboxylic ester derivative of formula (II), wherein R₁ is an alkylene group having 1 to 40 carbon atoms.

7. (Currently Amended) The analgesic pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 5 6, ~~wherein said compound is said buprenorphine dicarboxylic ester derivative of formula (II),~~ wherein R₁ is an alkylene group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms.

8. (Currently Amended) The analgesic pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 5, wherein said compound is said buprenorphine monocarboxylic ester derivative of formula (I), wherein R is ~~an~~ a C₂ to C₄₀ alkyl group optionally substituted with a phenyl group.

9. (Canceled)

compound is said buprenorphine monocarboxylic ester derivative of formula (I), wherein R is an alkyl group having 2 to 40 carbon atoms.

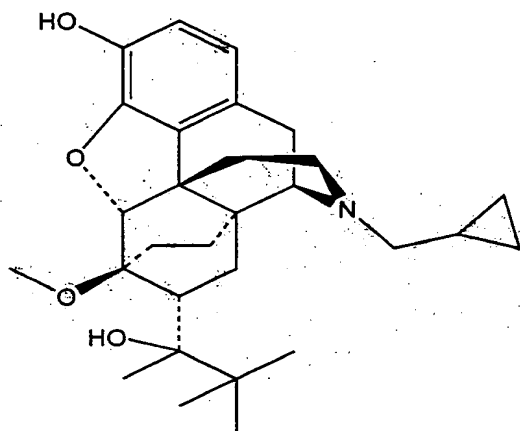
10. (Currently Amended) The analgesic pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 5 ~~8, wherein said compound is said buprenorphine monocarboxylic ester derivative of formula (I),~~ wherein R is an alkyl group having 5 to 20 carbon atoms.

11. (Currently Amended) The analgesic pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 5, wherein said compound is said buprenorphine monocarboxylic ester derivative of formula (I), wherein R is selected from the group consisting of ~~a straight chain alkyl group optionally substituted with a phenyl group, a branched alkyl group optionally substituted with a phenyl group, a phenyl group optionally substituted with a straight chain aliphatic group, and a phenyl group optionally substituted with a branched aliphatic group~~ an alkyl group having 5 to 20 carbon atoms, a *t*-butyl group and a phenyl group, with the proviso that R is not selected from n-pentyl and n-hexyl.

12. (Original) The analgesic pharmaceutical composition as claimed in Claim 5, wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of dibuprenorphine pimelate, dibuprenorphine sebacoyl ester, buprenorphine pivalate, buprenorphine benzoate, buprenorphine decanoate and buprenorphine palmitate.

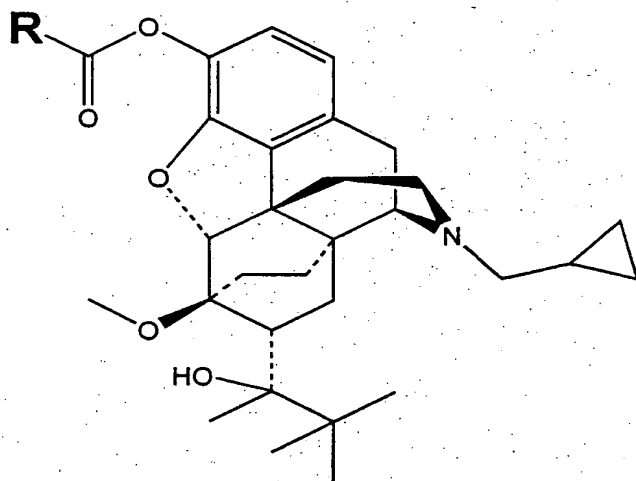
13. (Original) The analgesic pharmaceutical composition as claimed in Claim 5, wherein said oil carrier is selected from the group consisting of sesame oil, castor oil, cotton seed oil, soybean oil, peanut oil or ethyl ester of peanut oil, and a combination thereof.

14. (Currently Amended) A method of providing a prolonged analgesia to an animal or human comprising administering intramuscularly or subcutaneously to an animal or human in need of such treatment an effective amount of ~~the composition of claim 5~~ a compound selected from the group consisting of buprenorphine base of formula (A)



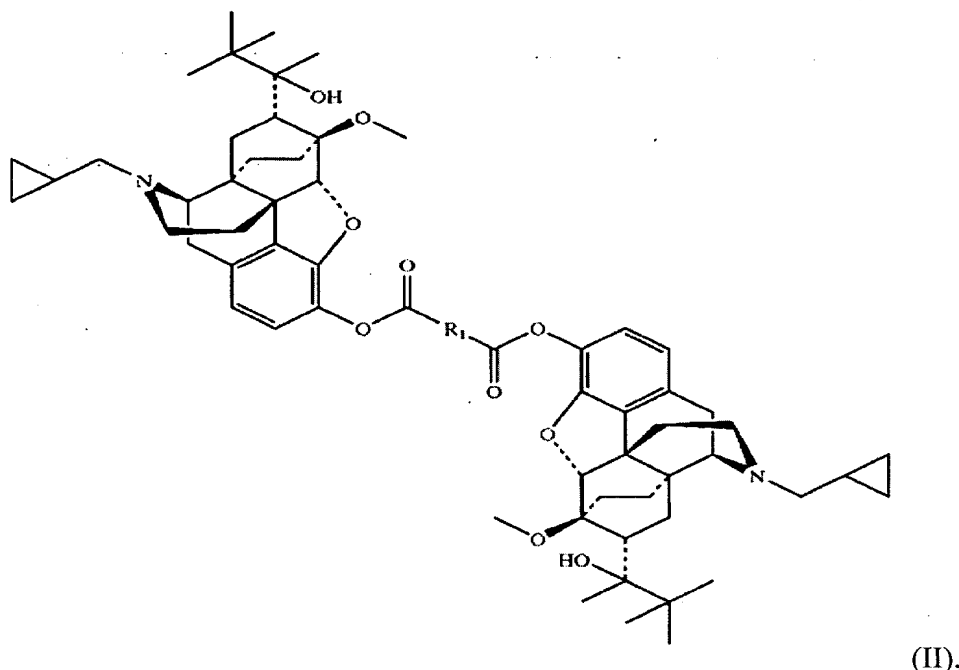
(A);

a buprenorphine monocarboxylic ester derivative of formula (I)



(I).

wherein R is selected from the group consisting of a straight-chain or branched, saturated or unsaturated, C_2 to C_{40} aliphatic group optionally substituted with a phenyl group, and a phenyl group, with the proviso that R is not selected from methyl, ethyl, propyl, n-butyl, n-pentyl, n-hexyl and isopropyl; and
a buprenorphine dicarboxylic ester derivative of formula (II)



wherein R₁ is a divalent moiety of a saturated or unsaturated, straight-chain or branched,

C₁ to C₄₀ aliphatic group optionally substituted with a phenyl group;

in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable oil carrier.

15. (New) The method as claimed in Claim 14, wherein said compound is said buprenorphine dicarboxylic ester derivative of formula (II), wherein R₁ is an alkylene group having 1 to 40 carbon atoms.

16. (New) The method as claimed in Claim 15, wherein R₁ is an alkylene group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms.

17. (New) The method as claimed in Claim 14, wherein said compound is said buprenorphine monocarboxylic ester derivative of formula (I), wherein R is a C₂ to C₄₀ alkyl group optionally substituted with a phenyl group.

18. (New) The method as claimed in Claim 17, wherein R is an alkyl group having 5 to 20 carbon atoms.
19. (New) The method as claimed in Claim 14, wherein said compound is said buprenorphine monocarboxylic ester derivative of formula (I), wherein R is selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group having 5 to 20 carbon atoms, a *t*-butyl group and a phenyl group, with the proviso that R is not selected from n-pentyl and n-hexyl.
20. (New) The method as claimed in Claim 14, wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of dibuprenorphine pimelate, dibuprenorphine sebacoyl ester, buprenorphine pivalate, buprenorphine benzoate, buprenorphine decanoate and buprenorphine palmitate.
21. (New) The method as claimed in Claim 14, wherein said oil carrier is selected from the group consisting of sesame oil, castor oil, cotton seed oil, soybean oil, peanut oil or ethyl ester of peanut oil, and a combination thereof.